

At the interview on January 29, 2003, Applicant and/or his undersigned attorney gave the following arguments in support of the allowance of the claims.

Fabel 4,461,661 teaches away from an originating sheet, see col. 2, lines 51-54 and col. 16, line 17. MPEP 2145 was cited.

Fabel cannot print both the mail-to and return envelopes. First he has no originating sheet in Figure 1, and his casual reference to a cover sheet at col. 16, line 17 does not refer to any printing on the "cover sheet." Moreover, referring to Figure 1, Fabel's mail-to address is George Smith Jr. and his return address is Acme Mfg. Co., Inc. If these addresses were printed on the insert and/or a return envelope they would be in the wrong position for the return envelope. They would result in the Postal Service returning the return envelope to Mr. Smith, not Acme Mfg.

Claims 83 to 86, 93, 97, 98, 99, 100, 101, 105, 106-8, either depend from claim 82 or present the same issue described above, and no further argument was specifically addressed to these claims at the interview.

Applicant explained that contiguous light and dark surfaces with the printing in the light surface improves the accuracy of machine reading. Nothing like this is shown in Fabel and hence claim 87 is patentable.

Fabel has his tear strip 30 along the left edge of the envelope and also has various tear strips in Figures 4A to 8B. None of those teach anything like the features of claims 91, 92, 95, 96, 110 or 111.

Fabel teaches away from a cover sheet much less shows one with

the return address of the reply envelope near the upper edge of the cover sheet and reproducing such near the upper edge of the reply envelope. While Fabel mentions a reply envelope a few times he gives no details.

Claims 93 and 94 are patentable for the reasons given in our amendment of October 2002.

The tear strips of Fabel are described above. Hence claim 96 is patentable for the reasons given in the amendment of October 2002.

Fabel has no security screening, however it, per se, is old and well known. However, the security screening and/or the contents of the envelope may show through the envelope and thus confuse the reading machine of the USPS. Applicant's inventions of claims 102, 103 and 109 overcome this problem.

Claim 103, as amended, is supported by the original specification page 21, line 20 to page 22, line 4.

Claim 104 was explained on page 8 of the amendment of October 2002 and is clearly not taught in Fabel. That reference refers to an insert but does not provide any of the other features of claim 104 as explained on said page 8 of the October 2002 amendment.

During the interview, there was reference to the IDS submitted by Applicant.

Applicant's attorney mentioned at the interview that before submitting the physical exhibits as part of the Information Disclosure Statements, he consulted with the Office of Petitions of the PTO, in particular Mr. Hicks (who consulted with another person before replying) and Applicant's attorney followed the advice given.

A specimen of Applicant's invention as requested by the
Examiner is attached.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "William D. Hall". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

William D. Hall
Register 14,311
Attorney for Applicant

10850 Stanmore Drive
Potomac, MD 20854
Tel. (301) 983-5070



MARK-UP COPY

82. (Amended) A postal envelope system comprising:

an outgoing envelope and a reply envelope contained within said outgoing envelope, wherein said envelopes each have a mail-to address and a return address printed thereon,

an originating sheet, covering said outgoing envelope, having said addresses printed thereon,

each of said addresses on said outgoing and said reply envelopes being vertically below a corresponding address on said originating sheet when the envelopes are held in a horizontal plane,

[a] coating means contiguous to said reply envelope for applying said addresses on said reply envelope when said addresses are printed on said originating sheet.

89. (Amended) A business method using a postal envelope system that has a machine for processing envelopes, said method comprising:

providing a first envelope having printed first mail-to and return addresses,

providing said first envelope with a second envelope for reply having printed mail-to and return addresses,

said step of providing a first envelope comprising providing two sheets of paper each of which sheets has four edges and wherein both sheets are of about the same size and shape and are attached together along three of their four edges, one of said edges being a right-hand edge,

passing said first envelope through said machine, at a post

office, that processes envelopes,

said step of passing said envelope through said machine comprising entering said right edge into said machine prior to the time than any of the other said edges enters said machine,

reinforcing said right-hand edge to thereby reduce the possibility that said machinery will seriously damage the first envelope[.],

[89. The business method of claim 88, wherein] said step of providing sheets attached and reinforced along the right-hand edge comprises gluing said sheets together along their right-hand edges.

103. (Amended) An envelope as defined in claim 102, which may be scanned by postal processing equipment, and in which:

said envelope and said opaque area comprising means for preventing the contents of said envelope from being mistakenly scanned by said postal processing equipment. [is the reply envelope of a postal envelope system having an outgoing envelope with said reply envelope in said outgoing envelope.]